



WEATHER CROP

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
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Week ending October 18, 2009

DELAYS CAUSED BY RAIN IN PANHANDLE; SOUTH REMAINS DRY

Weather Summary: High temperatures last week were in the 80s and lower 90s. Nightly lows ranged from the upper 30s to 60s. Rain was received at nearly all Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations. The majority of rain fell in the Panhandle, with Santa Rosa County collecting the most, 5.67 inches. Other northern locations each recorded three inches or less. The central and southern Peninsulas received smaller amounts of precipitation. The highest reported quantities were in Miami-Dade and Hillsborough counties, with approximately 1.25 inches each.

Field Crops: Peanut condition was rated 6% poor, 25% fair, 46% good, and 23% excellent. Peanut harvesting was 50% complete compared to 72% at this time last year, and a 5-year average of 68%. In the Panhandle, peanut growers had difficulty harvesting due to rain. Several Jackson County fields have peanuts on top of the ground that need to dry out before harvesting. In Washington County, disease was reported for some peanuts. Cotton harvest was also delayed by rain. Winter forage was planted in areas where soil moisture and temperatures allowed. Sugarcane harvest began in Glades and Hendry counties. Soil moisture levels were short to adequate in all locations except the Panhandle, which reported adequate to surplus levels.

Peanut Progress for Week Ending: October 18, 2009

Stage	2008	5-yr average	2009
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Harvested	72	68	50

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil			Subsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	1	11	1	0	7	1
Short	31	25	32	27	27	25
Adequate	63	58	61	67	61	68
Surplus	5	6	6	6	4	6

Vegetables: Growers continued to plant vegetables and perform cultural operations. Strawberries were planted in Hillsborough County. Recent cool temperatures slightly damaged some vegetables in Nassau County. Squash in Union County were severely hurt by the first reported frost; however, in south Florida sun scald and heat stress affected crops. Very light harvesting of snap beans, eggplant, peas, and squash has begun. Light sweet corn harvesting took place as well. Watermelon and specialty crops were marketed from southern counties. Also moving through the market were avocados, tomatoes, cucumbers, and okra.

Livestock and Pastures: Pasture condition declined due to seasonally shorter days and cooler temperatures, but also due to drought. In the Panhandle and northern areas, pastures were fair to excellent with most in good condition. Permanent pastures were going dormant. Small grains for winter forage were being planted but planting was held up in some locations due to rain. The rainy weather in the Panhandle has hurt forage quality. Cattle condition was varied from poor to excellent with most in good condition. In the central areas, pasture was in very poor to excellent condition. The condition of the pasture was declining seasonally. Drought accounts for most of the pasture in very poor to poor condition. In the Southwest, pasture condition was in poor to excellent condition with most in good condition. Some winter forage planting has been postponed due to high daytime temperatures and lack of moisture. Stock pond water levels were going down. Statewide, the condition of the cattle was poor to excellent with most in good condition.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	0	0	0	1
Poor	10	5	10	5
Fair.....	15	20	20	25
Good	65	65	65	60
Excellent	10	10	5	9

Citrus: Weather conditions remained warm until the weekend with light winds and little rain in most of the citrus-producing counties. Over the past weekend, a cold front moved through the State bringing much cooler temperatures. High temperatures were reported in the 80s and 90s with lows dropping into the 60s and 70s during the week, with weekend highs in the 60s and 70s and lows dropping to 40s and 50s. Rainfall was light throughout the State with the exception of portions of Hillsborough County. Balm reported the most precipitation with 1.20 inches and North Port was second with almost half an inch. Most other stations received no more than a trace of rain. Grove activity included limited harvesting, irrigating, herbiciding, and mowing. Scouting for canker and greening by growers and caretakers continued. Thirty-two packinghouses have opened and begun shipping fruit and four processing plants have begun running fruit in small quantities. Varieties packed included early oranges (Navels, Ambersweet, and Hamlin), white and colored grapefruit, Fallglo tangerines, and a few Nova tangelos.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

[In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes]

Crop	October 4, 2009	October 11, 2009	October 18, 2009
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and mid oranges.....	28	56	56
Navel oranges	22	47	77
Grapefruit	54	81	186
Tangelos.....	0	0	2
Fallglo tangerines	58	102	87

This report is available, at no cost, on the NASS web site: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Subscribe_to_FL_Reports/index.asp. To set-up this free subscription, select Florida Crop-Weather; enter your name and your email address, click on Subscribe. This report will be sent automatically each week; or call us at 800/344-6277 and we will enter the subscription for you. The precipitation and temperature data used in this report originates from the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN). Data for individual reporting stations is available at: <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu> maintained by UF/IFAS Information Technologies.